



Radiologic Agent

Exposure

CRITERIA

- Signs and symptoms indicating exposure to radiation

PROTOCOL

EMR	Follow <i>General – Universal Patient Care/Initial Patient Contact protocol.</i>	EMR
EMT	Ensure adequate airway and oxygenation.	EMT
EMT	If there is life threatening illness or injury treat patient without regard for contamination.*	EMT
EMT	If there is no life threatening illness or injury, determine if patient is contaminated.	EMT
EMT	Consider gross decontamination as clean as possible and implement appropriate protocol.	EMT

***Treatment of seriously injured or ill radiologically contaminated patients takes priority over all other activities, including decontamination. Do not delay advanced life support to assess contamination status.**

PEARLS

- Responders should wear a minimum of N-95 respirators when responding to non-specific explosions to reduce the chance of internal contamination.
- Contaminated patients from a Radiation Dispersal Devices (RDD) present a low risk of exposure to health care providers.

General Information

- Patients with open wounds should have the wound dressed and bandaged without cleaning.
- The most likely isotopes used for Radiological Dispersal Devices will emit Gamma radiation, in addition to Alpha and Beta. Therefore, most available detectors (GammaRAE, Ludlum Ratemeter, etc.) will identify contamination. However, the dispersal of a source reduces the level of radioactivity and therefore, detection above background may be difficult.
- When monitoring for patient contamination (external), the use of portal monitors (found at several hospital emergency departments and available through the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team) and/or the use of hand-held ratemeters with a “pancake” probe is suggested. When using hand-held ratemeters, a quick “triage” of contamination should focus on the head (hair) and feet (shoes), with a more extensive survey on those found to be contaminated.
- Once radiological contamination has been identified, the following resources may be of assistance:

Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REACT/TS)

- Weekday phone: (865) 576-3131
- Weekend/Night phone: (865) 576-1005

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, Medical Radiobiology Team

- Phone: (301) 295-0530



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Other Antidotes are available in the region and are co-located with the Strategic National Stockpile Chempacks.